

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CORRECTING AN INJUSTICE TO INJURED SERVICE MEMBERS

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my wife Beverly and I spend considerable time visiting with injured soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and coasties at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. Our goal is to provide comfort and support to the service members and their families.

This is a project Beverly has led for many years, long before the inception of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Throughout the years, we have helped solve many problems large and small that involved patient care, benefits, and tangled bureaucracy.

Recently, though, we learned of a problem that I consider a serious affront to those injured in battle and training. Upon being discharged from the hospital, our enlisted personnel and officers are served with a bill to pay for their "subsistence" while in the hospital. The current daily rate for these charges is \$8.10.

We learned about this from our visits with Staff Sergeant William L. Murwin, who spent 26 days in the hospital recovering from injuries incurred in Iraq. Sergeant Murwin is a reservist in the Marine Corps who was injured when a 10-year-old Iraqi dropped a grenade in the HUMVEE he was driving. As a result of the explosion, Sergeant Murwin is a partial amputee, having lost a large part of his foot.

Upon his discharge July 18th to return home to Nevada and his job as a sheriff's deputy, Sergeant Murwin was handed a bill from the hospital for \$210.60 to pay for his food and subsistence. Beverly and I paid this bill for Sergeant Murwin because we consider it an injustice to ask those who have served us so courageously in Afghanistan and Iraq to pay for their food while hospitalized.

Legislation I am introducing today would amend current law to prohibit service members injured in combat or training from being billed for the food while hospitalized. Congress initially initiated the system of charging for subsistence costs for officers who were hospitalized in 1958 under Public Law 85-861. The 97th Congress amended this law in 1981 with Public Law 97-22 to include enlisted service members.

Mr. Speaker, this is a long overdue correction to our statutes. No one wants to see these men and women have to write a check for their hospital stay, least of all the staff of our nation's military hospitals. We should be honoring and thanking those in uniform for their service to the cause of peace and freedom, not billing them for their food. And we should be doing all we can to help them recover from their injuries, not ask them to write a check to the U.S. Government.

It is my hope that my colleagues in the House will join me in sponsoring this legislation and in urging the Committees with jurisdiction to expedite its enactment as a fitting tribute to all those who serve so valiantly and unfortunately have returned home injured, missing limbs, and in many cases being permanently disabled. It is the least we can do for our nation's keepers of peace and defenders of freedom.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM "BILLY" ROLLE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. William "Billy" Rolle, Former Head Coach of the Miami Northwestern Senior High School Football Team. He has become the winningest varsity coach in the recent history of Miami-Dade Public Schools, the nation's fourth largest school system. This Friday, September 5, 2003, Coach Rolle will be inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame of Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida.

Coach Rolle will join members of his family in this elite circle of achievement to be so honored by this great university, my Alma Mater. Honorees include his late father William Rolle, his mother Frankie Shannon Rolle, his aunt Sophia and his uncle Walter White, his late cousin FAMU Coach Bob Mungen and his late godbrother, the legendary Robert "Bob" Hayes.

Indeed, this is a milestone in the annals of FAMU's athletic glory, and has distinctly elicited so much following from the constituents of the 17th Congressional District. As I join them in extolling the hard work and sacrifices of his parents, the faculty and staff of Miami Northwestern Senior High School located in the heart of Liberty City, I want to likewise commend the exemplary role of this honoree. Due to his utmost commitment to his students, particularly his student-athletes, Coach "Billy" Rolle has become the cornerstone of excellent programs that buttress academic scholarship on one hand, and athletic achievement on the other.

I would like to congratulate him for fast becoming the legendary coach that he is now known among his colleagues and in high school football circles not only across Florida, but across the nation as well. I am also to privy to his work ethic and dogged discipline throughout his coaching years, paving the way for excellence both in the classroom and on the gridiron. Known for his no-nonsense approach to forthright guidance and counseling among his student-athletes, Coach "Billy" Rolle has certainly surrounded himself with excellent coaching staffs whose knowledge and sensitivity to sporting activities befitting the school ambiance superbly complements and supplements the learning needs of his students.

His sterling approach to educating, motivating and mentoring the members of his football teams has led to two District Championships in the year 2000, and culminating in four District Championships at Miami Northwestern Senior High with a hard-to-beat record of 60 wins against only 9 losses. As Assistant Coach, he contributed to the winning of the 1995 6-A Florida Football State Championship, and as Head Coach, he likewise won the 1998 6-A Florida Football State Championship. These enviable achievements were made possible by his emphasis on utmost personal responsibility and his ability to converge same into a zealous dedication to the demands of teamwork above any and all individual accomplishments.

As a whole, our community is genuinely honored by the leadership of Coach "Billy" Rolle. Accordingly, his being enshrined into the Sports Hall of Fame at Florida A&M University this Friday is an unerring testament to his honoring the family of students and parents, the faculty and staffs of various senior high schools to which he has been assigned all through these years since 1983. The dedication of his sterling efforts toward molding the minds and hearts of countless young student-athletes gives honor and respect to a community that is fully cognizant of his many sacrifices and unselfish contributions.

This is the magnificent legacy Coach William "Billy" Rolle genuinely bequeaths to all of us as he enters the Sports Hall of Fame. Suffice it to say that his pursuit of athletic excellence amidst scholastic achievement is not beyond the reach of those willing to dare the impossible through hard work, discipline and resilience. Indeed, I am privileged but deeply humbled to represent him, his wife Loretta and his two children, B.J. and Sheree, along with his noble forbears, in the United States Congress, knowing full well that together they have done so much to dignify the pride of a grateful community.

IN HONOR OF THE FRIENDS OF JEFFERSON PATTERSON PARK AND MUSEUM'S RECEIPT OF A 2003 CHESAPEAKE BAY GATE- WAYS NETWORK GRANT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Friends of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum. This organization received a 2003 Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network Grant for a project designed to enhance opportunities for visitors to explore the lands and stories of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum.

The Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network, which includes more than 120 museums, state parks, wildlife refugees and other sites in five states and the District of Columbia, was created to enhance the experience of visitors to

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